

09/821,022 without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. No new matter is added. Therefore, original Claims 1-17 are pending in the application for consideration and examination.

CLAIMS FOR §§119/120 PRIORITY

Applicant claims foreign priority under 35 USC §119 of JP 2000-192824 filed 27 June 2000, the certified copy of which was filed in parent Application No. 09/821,022 on 30 March 2001. Written acknowledgment of the claim for priority under §119 is respectfully requested.

Applicant also claims domestic benefit under 35 USC §120 of US Application No. 09/821,022 filed 30 March 2001, and the specification of the present division has been amended to identify the parent application. Written acknowledgment of the claim for priority under §120 is respectfully requested.

IDENTIFICATION OF ASSIGNEE

HITACHI, LTD. is Assignee of entire right, title and interest in and to the present division by virtue of the Assignment recorded 30 March 2001 at Reel 011665, Frames 0546 *et seq.*

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or

disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area telephone 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and information, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

This Preliminary Submission and Claims for Priority is being filed concurrently with the present divisional application. In any event, no Petition or extension fee is possible or necessary for entry of this paper. Submitted with the present division is a Form PTO-2038 authorizing payment of the requisite filing and additional claims fees (Codes 1001/1201). To whatever other extent is actually necessary, please charge

any shortage due in connection with the filing of this paper to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing Case No. 503.39918VX1).

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Skwierawski
Registration No. 32,173
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP
1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3801, USA
Telephone 703-312-6600
Facsimile 703-312-6666